

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 SSO-00 AID-05

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SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SCS-03 DPW-01 HEW-02 /098 W

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R 311122Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8830

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BANGKOK 15704

FOR IATF, TAFT FROM MCMANAWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VSCB, SREF, TH, LA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPECIAL IATF TEAM TO THAILAND

SUMMARY: TEAM ARRIVED BANGKOK EVENING OF 27 JULY. THEY MET DURING 28 AND 29 JULY WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM, UNHCR, U.S. CONSUL FROM UDORN, CANADIAN CHARGE, AND THAI AUTHORITIES IN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERIOR. ON 29 JULY VISITED CAMPS AT UTAPAO, VAYAMA IN THE SOUTHEAST AND ARANYAPRATHET ON CAMBODIAN BORDER. CONVERSATIONS WITH THAI AUTHORITIES INDICATED GREAT CONCERN FOR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS RESULTING FROM THAILAND PROVIDING HAVEN FOR REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS, AND STRONG HOPE THAT MOST WOULD RETURN, INCLUDING THE MEO. UNHCR CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED TALK WITH RIZVI AND YEAGER. ACCORDING TO RIZVI THAI AUTHORITIES ARE NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT UN ASSISTANCE IN TEMPORARILY REPEAT TEMPORARILY RESETTLING REFUGEES IN THAILAND. NUMBERS OF REFUGEES BECOMING CLEARER, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL UNCERTAINTY ON LAO AND THAI DAM NUMBERS, AND THERE ARE SOME CAMBODIANS STILL ARRIVING. IT NOW APPEARS THERE ARE AS MANY AS 40,000 MEO, 6000-7000 KHMER, 1500-2000 VIETNAMESE, 3,000 LAO AND 2,500 THAI DAM. OF THESE, CURRENT ESTIMATES
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ARE THAT 800 KHMER, 1,400 VIETNAMESE, 800 LAO AND 500 THAI

DAM WILL MEET CRITERIA OF HAVING A RELATIVE IN THE U.S. OR HAVING BEEN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE TOTAL ESTIMATE OF THOSE MEETING THESE CRITERIA IS 3,500. CONSIDERABLY MORE WOULD MEET QUOTE HIGH RISK CATEGORY END QUOTE, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE CAMBODIANS. THIRD COUNTRIES, MAINLY FRANCE AND CANADA, HAVE THUS FAR TAKEN A TOTAL OF ABOUT 2400 REFUGEES AND UNHCR CURRENTLY HAS 3,700 ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS PENDING FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES. CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS VISITED RANGE FROM GOOD AT UTAPAO, TOLERABLE AT VAYAMA, TO MISERABLE AT ARANYAPRATHET. RECOMMEND GIVING DISCRETION WITHIN BROAD GUIDELINES TO EMBASSY TO DETERMINE WHICH REFUGEES SHOULD BE STAGED THROUGH GUAM FOR HEALTH REASONS. CONDITIONS IN THE MEO CAMPS REPORTEDLY RANGE FROM GOOD IN UDORN TO CRITICAL IN THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST. MEO ARE REPORTEDLY DYING IN THE CAMPS IN THE NORTHWEST. END SUMMARY.

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR REPS

1. TEAM MET WITH SPECIAL UNHCR REP RIZVI THREE TIMES, INCLUDING VAYAMA CAMP IN COURSE OF FIELD TRIP. RIZVI INFORMED TEAM THAT UNHCR HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH WITH RTG ON THE ISSUE OF THE REFUGEES AND HAD EXECUTED BASIC AGREEMENT CALLING FOR 62 MILLION BAHT (\$3.1) FOR REFUGEE RELIEF. UNHCR IS ALSO MAKING SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CHANGES IN ITS MISSION IN THAILAND, WITH VIEW TO CONSOLIDATING THAI CONCESSIONS WITH A STRONG STAFF. RIZVI STATED HIS BELIEF THAT RTG WAS FACING UNPRECEDENTED EXPERIENCE BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A DEFINITE POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UNHCR THE UNHCR REP SAID THAT WHILE SOME RTG MINISTERS HAD SPOKEN INCONSISTENTLY AND IRRESPONSIBLY ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE, HIS CONTACTS WITH WORKING-LEVEL MEMBERS OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP IN THE PAST MONTH MADE HIM BELIEVE THE RTG ONCE BROUGHT AROUND COULD COPE WITH THE SIGNIFICANT RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS FACING IT. PROGRAM WHICH WAS SIGNED JULY 30 AT MFA INCLUDES 20 MILLION BAHT (\$1 MILLION) FOR SHELTER; 26 MILLION BAHT (\$1.3 MILLION) FOR SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS, VITAMINS, ETC.; 16 MILLION BAHT (\$800,000) FOR HYGIENIC MATERIALS, MEDICINES, GASOLINE FOR AIRLIFT, ETC. CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT WAS MENTIONED IN BANGKOK PRESS FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT BY THAI DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR. RIZVI WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO BE INFORMED DURING CONVERSATION WITH TEAM MEMBER THAT AGREEMENT WAS TO BE SIGNED JULY 30, THE DAY FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING ON THE ISSUE. RIZVI SAID HE HAD FEARED NEAR PARALYSIS OF EFFORT TO BEGIN UNHCR PROGRAM BECAUSE INTERIOR MINISTRY WAS UNDER HEAVY POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION MEMBERS

WHO RESENTED RTG EXPENDITURES TO DATE.

2. RIZVI STATED THAT ENTIRE TEAM IN THAILAND WAS BEING REPLACED. NEW DIRECTOR IS GERMAN NATIONAL NAMED BERTA WITH EXTENSIVE PROGRAM EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA. RIZVI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRESENT REP KADRY HAD FALTERED BADLY. RIZVI SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY PLEASED WITH U.S. PRESSURE UPON HIGH COMMISSIONER WHICH, HE SAID, HAD SHAKEN GENEVA. BECAUSE OF ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF RTG INFRASTRUCTURE TO DEAL WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF DISPARATE NATIONAL GROUPS, AGREEMENT CALLS FOR STRONGER THAN USUAL SUPERVISION CLAUSES. UNHCR PLANS TO ASSIGN PERMANENT REPS FOR ALL OF THE RESULTING CAMP LOCATIONS AFTER PLANNED CONSOLIDATION. RIZVI INDICATED THAT THE RTG PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE THE CURRENT 13 LOCATIONS AROUND THAILAND INTO A SMALLER NUMBER OF CAMPS. FOR EXAMPLE, AS TEAM SAW DURING FIELD TRIP, ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND ARE BEING GROUPED AT VAYAMA. TEAM WAS TOLD THAT WITH ARRIVAL OF NEW MISSION MEMBERS PLUS NECESSITY OF SECURING INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS, PROGRAM STILL NOT EXPECTED TO BE UNDERWAY FOR ANOTHER FOUR WEEKS.

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R 311122Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8831

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BANGKOK 15704

3. TEAM WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF APPLICATIONS FOR RESETTLEMENT RESULTING FROM UNHCR SURVEYS: 1,500 VIETNAMESE

OF WHOM 800 HAVE APPLIED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES; 1,500 CAMBODIANS OF WHOM 900 HAVE APPLIED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES; 800 LAO OF WHOM 700 HAVE APPLIED ELSEWHERE; 2,500 THAI DAM OF WHOM 1,300 HAVE APPLIED FOR THIRD COUNTRIES; TOTALLING 6,300 APPLICATIONS OF WHICH 3,700 ARE THIRD COUNTRY APPLICANTS.

REPATRIATION

4. AS RIZVI HAD INDICATED TO DEPARTMENT AND IATF OFFICIALS DURING RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HE PERCEIVES FROM HIS SEVERAL VISITS TO SAIGON AND HANOI THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT LACK OF COHESION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DRV AND PRG ALTHOUGH IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE DRV IS THE DOMINANT PARTNER. RIZVI BELIEVES THAT THE REPATRIATION ISSUE IS ALSO LAGGING BECAUSE OF DRV/PRG SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE BONA FIDES OF THE REPATRIATES AS WELL AS BEING GENUINELY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF LAW AND ORDER IN SVN AND POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT IF REPATRIATES ARE BROUGHT IN BEFORE SAIGON GOVERNMENT IS WELL ORGANIZED. BY COMPARISON WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS, THE SMALL NUMBERS OF REPATRIATES TAKE A VERY LOW PRIORITY IN HANOI/SAIGON SCHEME
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OF THINGS. RIZVI INDICATED THAT VERIFICATION OF REPATRIATE DOSSIERS WOULD ALSO CONTINUE SLOWLY BECAUSE OF THE NECESSITY TO SEND THEM DOWN TO DISTRICT LEVEL. HE STATES NEVERTHELESS THAT HE CONTINUES TO PRESSURE THE DRV AND

PRG, IF ONLY TO PRESERVE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNHCR. RIZVI SAID THAT AFTER HIS LAST VISIT TO VIETNAM 10 DAYS AGO HE HAD CARRIED OUT, AT THEIR REQUEST THE FORMAL REQUEST FOR UN MEMBERSHIP SIGNED BY PHAM VAN DONG AND HUYN THANH PHAT. RIZVI SAID HE BELIEVES UN MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM AND THAT THIS COULD BE A STRONG LEVER FOR MOVING THE REPATRIATES. HE ALSO SAID HANOI AND SAIGON FEAR A POSSIBLE U.S. VETO. BECAUSE OF THEIR NOW EVIDENT EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE REPATRIATION ISSUE, RIZVI BELIEVES THE VIETNAMESE ARE MAKING SOME SMALL CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS RELEASING SOME OF THE THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS STILL IN SAIGON; RELEASING SOME 100 THAI FISHERMEN CAPTURED A MONTH AGO, WITH THEIR VESSELS, AND AGREEING TO RELEASE THE BODIES OF THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS KILLED DURING THE EVACUATION OF SAIGON. IN THIS LATTER REGARD, RIZVI INDICATES THAT THE BODIES, BECAUSE OF POWER FAILURES IN THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, HAVE BEEN BURIED IN COFFINS IN UNMARKED GRAVES. RIZVI HAS INSTRUCTED THE UNHCR REP (CASELLA) TO LOCATE THE BODIES AND EXPEDITE THEIR RETURN. RIZVI INDICATED THAT UPON LEARNING FROM

A PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE REPORT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS THAT THERE WAS A 6-YEAR OLD U.S. CITIZEN CHILD REMAINING IN SAIGON, HE ALSO INSTRUCTED CASELLA TO EXPEDITE THE REPATRIATION OF THE LITTLE GIRL. RIZVI BELIEVES THAT THE RETURN OF THE REMAINING SOME 60 AMERICANS WILL MOVE SMOOTHLY IF ONLY BY INCREMENTS.

DISCUSSIONS WITH RTG OFFICIALS

5. TEAM MET WITH WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REFUGEE OPERATIONS CENTER. AFTER BRIEFING ON CURRENT U.S. SITUATION TEAM WAS MADE TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT THE RTG DID NOT RELISH THE TASK OF RESETTLEMENT AND THAT THE INITIAL IMPULSE WAS NOT TO MAKE THE REFUGEES WELCOME. IN
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FACT, THE PRECISE TERMS USED DESCRIBED THAI INTENTION TO PROVIDE ONLY MINIMAL SUPPORT AND SHELTER IN HOPES THAT LAO, MEO AND CAMBODIANS WOULD RE-CROSS THE FRONTIERS. ASIDE FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE RTG IS CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF NOT ONLY THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA BUT THE ABILITY OF NVN TO CAUSE PROBLEMS, AS INDICATED BY PROPAGANDA BLASTS FROM HANOI. THE MINIMAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY THE MEOS, WAS INTERPRETED BY THE TEAM TO LITERALLY STARVE THEM BACK. HOWEVER, THAI OFFICIALS DID CONFIRM IN LUKE-WARM FASHION, INTENTION OF RTG TO WORK WITH THE UNHCR FOR "TEMPORARY" RESETTLEMENT. FOREIGN OFFICE INTERLOCUTOR INDICATED THAT RTG HAD RECEIVED LAO AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" TO ACCEPT MEO RETURNEES AND IN FACT THE RTG HAD SENT A VOLUNTEER TRIAL GROUP OF 70 BACK WITH NO APPARENT REPRISALS. RTG CLEARLY HOPEFUL THAT MEO WILL RETURN, BUT EMBASSY BANGKOK AND VERY EXPERIENCED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE REPS ARE EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THAT THIS WILL EVER OCCUR IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS.

CONTACT WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS

6. TEAM RENEWED ACQUAINTANCE WITH CANADIAN CHARGE MANFRED VON NOSTITZ WHO ARRIVED IN COUNTRY HIMSELF ONLY IN MID MAY. VON NOSTITZ IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO OFFICERS WHO SERVED IN SVN WITH THE ICC IN SAIGON, HANOI AND CAN THO. VON NOSTITZ HAS TAKEN ACTIVE INTEREST IN REFUGEE PROBLEM BOTH IN EDUCATING OTTAWA AND IN PRESSING HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES TO TAKE A GREATER INTEREST. CANADA HAS TAKEN SOME 200 VIETNAMESE AND 100 CAMBODIANS FROM THAILAND AND VON NOSTITZ INDICATED THAT OTTAWA WAS REVIEWING ITS POSITION ON LAOTIANS. THE CANADIAN CHARGE INDICATED

THAT ACCEPTANCE OF LAOTIANS WOULD TAKE A CABINET LEVEL
DECISION AND DEPENDED SOMEWHAT ON WHAT THE U.S. DOES.

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R 311122Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8832

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BANGKOK 15704

VON NOSTITZ INDICATED TO TEAM THAT CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER
IN SINGAPORE PLANNED TO VISIT THAI CAMPS TO REGISTER REFUGEES
AND THAT OFFICER WISHED TO TALK TO TEAM BEFORE DEPARTING
SINGAPORE.

OVERALL REFUGEE SITUATION

7. THERE ARE REFUGEES IN 13 KNOWN LOCATIONS IN THAILAND.
THE 40,000 MEO ARE IN FIVE OR MORE LOCATIONS IN THE NORTH
AND NORTHWEST. SOME HAVE SHELTER, OTHERS DO NOT.
ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE REPS WHO HAVE
TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE AS MANY AS 10,000
CAMBODIANS IN THAILAND, MOSTLY ALONG THE WESTERN AND
SOUTHEASTERN BORDERS AND IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIN. ABOUT
6-7000 ARE IN QUOTE CAMPS UNQUOTE. OTHERS ARE AMONG THE
MIXED KHMER/THAI POPULATION IN SURIN AND SOME 7-900 LAYING LOW
IN BANGKOK ITSELF (THERE ARE ALSO CAMBODIANS IN JAIL IN
BANGKOK). IN SOME LOCATIONS THE 6-7000 REFUGEES COUNTED AS IN
"CAMPS" ARE IN DELINEATED AREAS WITH SHELTER. IN OTHER AREAS
THEY ARE LIVING IN THE OPEN WITH THE TREES THEIR ONLY ROOF. THE
ONLY FOOD SOME ARE RECEIVING, PARTICULARLY THE MEO, IS BEING
PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY, MAINLY RELIGIOUS, ORGANIZATIONS

WITH THE THAIS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION. SOME CAMPS
ARE RECEIVING MINIMAL FOOD AND WATER FROM THE THAI GOVERNMENT.
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8. UNTIL RECENTLY
THE THAIS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO TRULY
FACE THE SITUATION AND ACKNOWLEDGE ANY RESPONSIBILITY
BY TAKING ACTIONS OR COOPERATING WITH THE UNHCR. NOR HAS
THE RTG HAD THE ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.
THAT APPEARS TO BE CHANGING FOR THE BETTER, ALBEIT
SLOWLY. THEY HAVE ORGANIZED A TASK FORCE AND HAVE MOVED IN A
HOPEFUL WAY TO ACCEPT UNHCR ASSISTANCE.

CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS

8. TEAM TRAVELED TO UTAPAO, VAYAMA AND ARANYAPRATHET.
UTAPAO WAS THE ONLY REAL CAMP, THE OTHERS ARE NO MORE
THAN CORDONED LOCATIONS WITH SHELTER BUT NO ACTUAL
ADMINISTRATION. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 720 REFUGEES (600
VIETNAMESE AND 120 CAMBODIANS) AT UTAPAO SCREENED AND
READY TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S. NO NEED FOR ANY OF THESE
TO TRANSIT GUAM. TWO FLIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE 90
ON 31 JULY AND 2 AUGUST. CONDITIONS ARE QUITE GOOD WITH
THE JCRC TEAM CONTINUING TO DO AN OUT-
STANDING JOB. CAMP CAPACITY CAN BE RAISED TO 900. NO PROBLEMS.

9. THAI AUTHORITIES ARE CONSOLIDATING ALL VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES AT VAYAMA. THERE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 1,000 IN
THIS CAMP. CONDITIONS COULD BE BETTER, BUT THE PROBLEMS
DO NOT APPEAR OVERLY SERIOUS AT PRESENT. PROBLEMS OF
BETTER WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ARRANGEMENTS, BETTER
DIET, MEDICATION FOR SKIN DISEASE AND DIARRHEA AND SPRAYING
FOR MOSQUITOS PASSED TO UNHCR REPS. THERE ARE THREE
VIETNAMESE DOCTORS IN THE CAMP, BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO
WORK WITH AND HAVE RECEIVED ONLY THOSE MEDICAL SUPPLIES
PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. CAMP MAINTENANCE HAS
APPARENTLY DETERIORATED SINCE THE THAI MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE THAI NAVY ABOUT
ONE MONTH AGO. CONDITIONS HERE WILL BEAR WATCHING AS THE
THAIS BRING ALL VIETNAMESE INTO THIS LOCATION.

10. FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES, THE CONDITIONS AT ARANYAPRATHET
ARE AT LEAST AS BAD AS THE WORST REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH
VIETNAM DURING THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY. CONSIDERING THAT
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THOSE CAMPS WERE RECEIVING EXTENSIVE U.S. ATTENTION, ARANYAPRATHET IS FAR WORSE. THERE ARE SOME 1,500 CAMBODIANS (100 ARRIVED THE NIGHT BEFORE OUR VISIT AFTER AN 18-DAY TREK) CRAMMED INTO TWO LAYERS (ONE ON THE GROUND) WITHIN THREE QUOTE LONG-HOUSES UNQUOTE. THERE IS INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY EXCEPT FOR THE NEARBY RIVER WHERE LATRENES ARE ALSO LOCATED. MARGINAL AMOUNTS OF RICE IS THE ONLY FOOD PROVIDED AND NO MEDICAL ATTENTION IS AVAILABLE. ONLY THAI PRESENCE ASIDE FROM QUOTE GUARDS IS AN OCCASIONAL VISIT BY THE THAI RED CROSS. THE REFUGEES ARE USING OPEN FIRES INSIDE THE LONG-HOUSES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR A FLAMING DISASTER IS REAL. MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IS EVIDENT AND THE ADULTS HAVE LOST ALL SPIRIT. FURTHER, EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPORT THAT ARANYA IS NOT THE WORST OF THE CAMPS AND REFUGEES FROM KHLONG YAI REINFORCED THIS VIEW.

1. EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE THAI ARE DOING EVEN LESS FOR THE MEO. CONDITIONS AMONG THE 30,000 PLUS MEO IN THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST ARE REPORTED AS APPALLING. THERE ARE ALSO SOME 5,000 MEO NOT ASSOCIATED WITH VANG PAO IN THE NORTHEAST. UNHCR REPORTS THAT THEY ARE ARMED AND THEREFORE CORDONED OFF BY THE THAI ARMY AND NO ONE HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO EXAMINE THEIR CONDITION. INDICATIONS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE NO BETTER OFF THAN THOSE IN THE NORTH. THE MEO IN THE NORTH ARE BEING LEFT TO FORAGE FOR THEMSELVES AND OVER ONE HUNDRED HAVE REPORTEDLY DIED THUS FAR. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IS CLEARLY REQUIRED AND THE TEAM RECOMMENDS IATF WASHINGTON MAKE REPRESENTATION TO UNHCR GENEVA. TEAM ALSO BELIEVES DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER PUBLIC PRESSURE TO STIR THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION.

EMBASSY STAFFING

12. EMBASSY OFFICIALS ARE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB HANDLING THE MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION NOW FACING THE PROGRAM, AND THE STRAIN OF THE JOB WILL INCREASE AS REDUCED NUMBERS WILL FORCE EXCEPTIONALLY HARD PAROLE DETERMINATIONS AMONG THOSE ELIGIBLE. EMBASSY STAFF NOW BEING ASSISTED BY ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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TDY OFFICER FROM VIENTIANE AND BY TWO CRS REPS WHO ARE DUE TO LEAVE IN AUGUST. THIS WILL GREATLY REDUCE STAFF CAPABILITY JUST WHEN WE HOPE TO MOVE LARGE NUMBERS. RECOMMEND IATF NEGOTIATE WITH CRS FOR THE EXTENSION OF CRS REPS WHO SAY THEY ARE WILLING TO STAY. INS IS SENDING AN OFFICIAL TDY FROM HONG KONG. UNDERSTAND DEPT PLANNING TO SEND THREE ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

ON TDY. THIS SHOULD BE DONE ASAP. ONE SHOULD BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND TWO POLITICAL, ALL PREFERABLY WITH EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

13. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO DOD, JCS AND OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
WHITEHOUSE

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